

Sport

BANEX Open

Sports Reporter
Badal Chowdhury beat Malcom Fry 9-4, 9-3, 9-4 and Bishu overcame MT Madar 9-1, 10-8, 9-5 in the BANEX Open squash tournament at the Dhaka Club Squash Complex yesterday.

Oberer made Swiss Davis Cup coach

GENEVA, Dec 7: Stéphane Oberer, coach of Switzerland's Olympic tennis champion Marc Rosset, has been appointed non-playing captain and coach of the Davis Cup team, reports Reuter.

Swiss Tennis Association (STV) spokesman Daniel Molin said on Tuesday that Oberer, 32, would take over from interim captain Dimitri Sturdza and combine the job of coach previously held by controversial Frenchman Georges Deniau.

Sturdza, 54, a naturalised Swiss and former Davis Cup stalwart, was picked by the players to replace Roland Stadler in November last year.

Stadler resigned when the players said they had no confidence in him ahead of Switzerland's first-ever appearance in the final which they lost to the United States in Fort Worth, Texas, a year ago.

Switzerland were subsequently dumped out of the World Group when they were upset by Israel in promotion relegation play-offs.

They will play either Luxembourg or Zimbabwe away next March in the Africa Europe group.

Better late than never

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Dec 7: Canadian synchronized swimmer Sylvie Frechette was on Monday granted the Olympic gold medal she should have won more than a year ago in Barcelona, reports Reuter.

Frechette would have won the solo title at last year's Summer Games but for an error by a judge who admitted pressing the wrong scoring button.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) agreed to a request from the International Swimming Federation (FINA) to give gold to Frechette. She had left Barcelona with the silver.

IOC sports director Gilbert Felli said Barcelona champion Kristen Babb-Sprague of the United States would retain her gold medal.

H'ball results

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh Ansars outplayed Old Ideals 17-8 in the Phoenix Insurance handball competition at the handball court yesterday.

The winners led the first half by 10 goals to four. Badshah netted eight goals while Fariduddin and Rafiqul scored four and three respectively.

Div III soccer

Sports Reporter
Gandaria Famous Sporting Club and Maghbazar Krira Chakra recorded easy wins in the Pragati Insurance Third Division football league at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

In the first encounter of the day, Maghbazar KC outclassed Purbachal Parjashad 4-0.

Kamal netted twice in the white Quddus and Mamun scored once each. Meanwhile, Gandaria Famous trounced East Bengal Sporting Club 5-2 with Salim scoring twice.

Liton, Raju and Rubel netted once each. Saiful contributed two goals to reduce the margin.

Argentina's tie with Cameroon called off

BUENOS AIRES, Dec 7: Argentina's friendly international against Cameroon, scheduled for Wednesday, has been cancelled because the Argentinians were unable to get a side together, the Argentine Football Association (AFA) said, reports Reuter.

An AFA spokesman said on Monday that Cameroon, who beat Argentina in the opening match of the 1990 World Cup finals, has been denied access to players under contract with European clubs.

No indication was given as to whether the match would be played a later date. However, local reports say the decision to cancel was taken on the grounds that the match would be a money loss.

Argentine coach Alfio Basile, looking ahead to the 1994 World Cup, had ignored his European-based stars for the match, preferring to try out young players from the local league.

Public interest fizzled away after the main attraction, captain Diego Maradona, was ruled out after sustaining a leg injury on Thursday.

Jansher stays on course

ZURICH, Dec 7: Jansher Khan moved closer to his tenth major squash title of the year as he defeated Australian world number four Brett Martin 15-5, 17-14, 16-17, 15-6 in the semi-finals of the Super Series tournament on Monday, reports Reuter.

But the all-conquering world champion from Pakistan was given a mighty battle by Martin and several times the match was held up by the applause of the full-house crowd.

Besides, the excellence of the squash, the match was also played in a superb spirit, with the players swapping jokes as well as shots on court.

Jansher looked in the mood to get his night's work over quickly as he dominated the opening game, keeping Martin pinned to the back of the court with accurate, powerful driving. He won the game in 11 minutes and when he moved 5-1 ahead in the second Martin looked destined for a mere supporting role. But the Australian had other ideas and started to bring Jansher to the front of the court.

Gaining in confidence, Martin starting going for his shots and when on form he is recognised as the best shot-maker in the game. He moved 13-10 ahead, but back came Jansher to reach game point at 14-13 with a fierce cross-court volley.

Martin saved it with another volley, but the Pakistani edged ahead again to take the game and a 2-0 lead.

The third game was even more spectacular, with Martin throwing caution to the wind and going for winners at every opportunity. It was exciting stuff, but high risk tactics by the Australian.

And when Jansher led 14-12 with two match points it looked all over. But back came the Australian, launching into a do-or-die effort with a string of fierce drives to all parts of the court.

He saved the match points, and another at 15:16 before winning the game with a deft flick wide of his opponent.

But Jansher restored his authority in the fourth and from 5-5 he moved ahead against a tiring Martin, whose shots now smacked of desperation rather than brilliance.

Jansher said: "I feel very relaxed and there is no pressure on me now after winning the World Open.

"I was very tense during the World Open in front of my own people in Karachi, so much was expected of me. I'm tired mentally and physically and after Zurich I am going home to Peshawar for a long rest to be ready for the tournaments next year."

In today's final, Jansher will renew hostilities with England's Peter Marshall who also needed four games to subdue Australian Rodney Eyles 15-13, 15-9, 15-10 in the other semifinal.

Eyles fought hard in the early stages and looked to be in with a good chance when he won the second game by taking eight of the last 10 points.

But the Australian faded in the closing stages as third seed Marshall repeated his win in the final of the Portuguese Open earlier this year.

Jansher and Marshall have met four times in the last month, the Pakistani winning each time. But the Englishman has taken four games in those matches and will not be daunted by the challenge.

Rockets on the threshold

HOUSTON, Dec 7: The Houston Rockets are at 14 and counting. The New York Knicks are simply counting on keeping the Rockets out of the NBA record book, reports AP.

The undefeated Rockets play the Knicks on Thursday night needing a victory to tie the old Washington Capitols, who opened the 1948 season with 15 straight wins for the best start in league history.

The Garden is going to be rocking tomorrow," Knicks guard John Starks said Wednesday, "and everybody will be up for this game."

Hakeem Olajuwon said the Rockets also will be ready. "We have to play our game and we can do it," Olajuwon said. "There is no better place to play and win than Madison Square Garden."

The record start was set 45 years ago by a Washington team coached by Red Auerbach, who later gained fame by building the Boston Celtics dynasty. The Capitols back then played in Providence, R I: Rochester, NY, and Fort Wayne, Ind; and were led by Robert Feick, Horace McKinney, Clarence Hermens and Fred Scolari. The NBA's westernmost team was the Lakers — in Minneapolis.

Tuesday night, Houston beat Milwaukee 102-91 for its 14th consecutive win to match another Auerbach-directed team, the 1957 Boston Celtics. Boston's bid to equal the all-time season-opening NBA mark was halted — by New York.

The Knicks (9-2) go into the game at the Atlantic Division. They've won four of five home games.

"They have the reputation of playing very physical basketball and the refs let them get away with it," Houston forward Otis Thorpe said. "We are the better team."

"The game will depend a lot on how the refs let us play," adds Olajuwon. "The Knicks are a championship team and we have some very tough individual battles with them. Ewing

is my toughest opponent. You have to be ready to play with him both offensively and defensively."

Starks was willing to give the Rockets credit, but said he didn't think the Knicks should be considered underdogs.

"You say we are in the underdog position. I don't like that position, but I guess that's how people are viewing the game," Starks said. "Houston did a great job up to this point."

"We're looking for them to come in here and try to establish a good low post game as well as a good outside game, and we have to shut that down."

It's been defense that has allowed the Rockets to flirt with the record. Houston has yet to allow an opponent 100 points and they lead the NBA by allowing just under 90 points per game.

"When you get a good defensive team, they have the capabilities of putting together a streak like this," Milwaukee coach Mike Dunleavy said.

Beijing still not sure

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, Dec 7: Beijing continued to play a waiting game over whether to enter the race to stage the 2004 Olympics here on Monday, reports AFP.

China's International Olympic Committee (IOC) member Zhenliang He revealed. That a final decision could depend on whether another third world candidate made a bid.

He said: "At the moment, we are still thinking about it, but we cannot announce anything until we know the other candidates." He added: "Beijing will act in the interests of the Olympic movement and that could mean supporting a bid from another third world country."

Beijing lost out to Sydney in the race to stage the 2000 Olympics.

FINA given a tough choice

BRISBANE, Dec 7: Drug testing procedures need to be tightened or swimmers who do not use illegal stimulants may quit the sport, Australian chief coach Don Talbot said Tuesday, reports AP.

Talbot was highly-critical of drug testing at the world short-course championships in Palma de Majorca, Spain, last week and lodged a protest to FINA, swimming's international governing body.

"In my opinion there is no more effort being made to ensure that people are drug-free than there was two years ago — and that is troublesome," Talbot said. "I think there has to be more done. It'll drive people away from our sport, in my opinion."

Chinese women won 10 gold medals and set 11 world records at the short-course championships, sparking rumours of drug abuse.

Talbot said it was "patently obvious that something was going on" but felt swimming officials were afraid to seriously tackle drug abuse.

"The whole issue has sort of gone quiet and I believe that we must not," he said.

Cash's low-key comeback

ADELAIDE, Dec 7: Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash made a low-key but successful comeback to tournament tennis Tuesday after being sidelined for more than a year by a knee injury, reports AP.

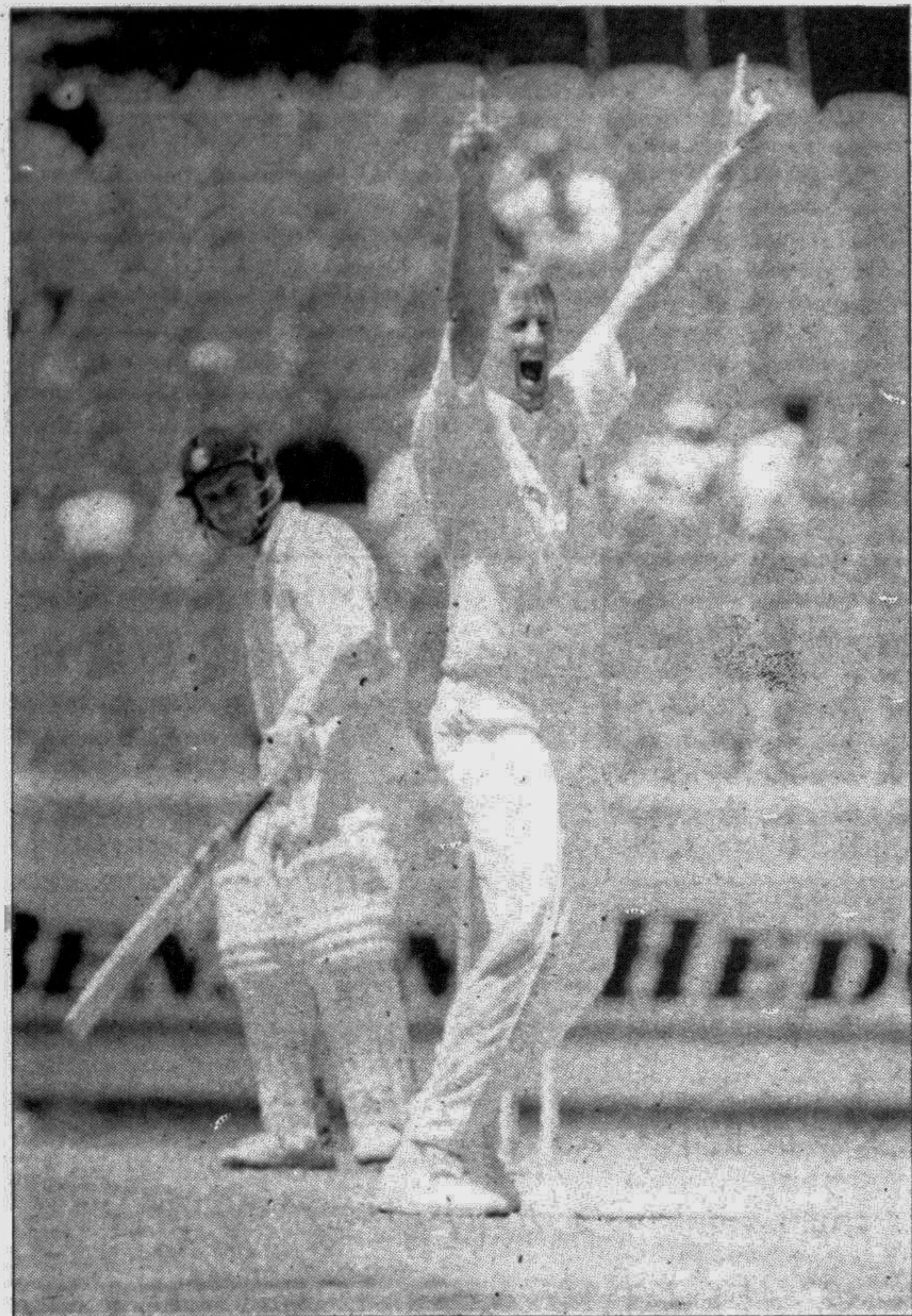
Cash, the Wimbledon singles champion in 1987, partnered South African-born David Adams in a first-round doubles match at the 25,000 South Australian grass court championships at Memorial Drive.

The pair defeated fellow Australians Paul Kilderry and Brent Larkham 6-3, 6-2.

Cash, 28, started slowly by dropping his opening service game, but showed no sign of discomfort on the pair's way to victory. He says he is using this event as the first stage of an attempt to resurrect his injury-plagued career.

"If the doubles goes OK, then I'll try singles," he said.

Cash and Adams will play their second-round match Thursday against Englishman Mark Petchey and Australian Wayne Arthurs.



South African fast bowler Craig Mathews is ecstatic after capturing the wicket of Wayne Phillips on the final day of the three-day match against Victoria in Melbourne yesterday. —AFP photo

Howard gives SA taste of spin

MELBOURNE, Dec 7: South Africa slumped to a six-wicket defeat against state team Victoria on Tuesday and have less than two days to recover before their opening match of the triangular World Series limited-overs tournament, reports AP.

Victoria cruised to their victory target of 110 in their second innings with a session and a half to spare.

Victorian captain Dean Jones warned the South Africans that they would be "destroyed" by Australian leg spinner Shane Warne in the upcoming Test series if they do not improve their technique against spin.

Victorian leg spinner Craig Howard took five wickets for 42 during the South African second innings.

Victoria scored 330 for eight declared and 110 for four in reply to South Africa's totals of 261 and 178. South African manager Mike Procter said his players recog-

nized the dangers posed by leg spin and had welcomed the opportunity to face Howard.

"It was a big experience for all the guys to actually play against a leg spinner," Procter said.

The tourists' loss was triggered by a batting collapse on Monday, when Howard and paceman Damien Fleming both bowled impressively.

Victoria needed only 14 minutes to wrap-up the South African second innings on Tuesday morning.

Howard captured career-best first-class figures when he had Donald caught at bat pad by Darrin Ramshaw for five.

Dave Rundle remained unbeaten on his overnight score of 14.

Ramshaw then led the way in the Victorian run chase by scoring 41, while Jones contributed 34.

The South Africans were without allrounder Brian McMillan, who Tuesday underwent exploratory surgery on a knee ligament injury, while Andrew Hudson and Darryl

Cullinan missed the match through injury.

"We were quite convincingly beaten here, but we've had quite a number of problems and I think with everyone fit and fighting we will be OK," Procter said.

"There has always been a little question mark against our batting and when you lose two guys like Hudson and Cullinan, who are two of our main batsmen, it does make life very difficult."

Hudson and Cullinan both are expected to be fit for South Africa's opening World Series game against Australia in Melbourne on Thursday.

The South Africans described the pitch as "a beach" and Australian Cricket Board chief executive Graham Halbish said staff would be working around the clock in a bid to repair the playing surface, which was damaged during a rock concert by the band U2 last week.

Scores: South Africa 261 and 178. Victoria 330-8 decl and 110-4. Victoria won by six wickets.

Africa's first Olympics?

by Phil Minshall

Africa has yet to host the Olympics despite her many athletic successes, particularly on the track and in the boxing ring. But South Africa has said it will be bidding for the 2004 Games and has already started mobilising support. Gemini News Service looks at the attempt to bring sport's greatest show on earth to Africa.

The dust has barely settled on the publicity merry-go-round that gave Sydney the honour of hosting the Olympics in the year 2000 and already campaigning has started for the 2004 Games. South Africa has put its name forward in the hope of bringing the Games to the African continent for the first time.

"The bid will be symbolic for all Africa," said Sam Ramsamy, President of the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCASA). "I don't want to discourage other cities but we will be putting up a formidable bid."

The idea of a South African bid to host the Olympics has already got the backing of Jean-Claude Ganga, President of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA).

Ganga's quick endorsement of the bid has effectively eliminated any other African countries from trying.

Since the International Olympic Committee (IOC) only allows cities and not countries to be nominated, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban have all been going through promotional exercises to win the South African nomination.

Cape Town is the clear front runner. Its ocean front location makes it ideal for water sports such as yachting and rowing.

Its sports facilities differ little from its main rival, Johannesburg, but its location and suburbs are much more attractive.

Johannesburg's bid has at its helm Danie Malan, the experienced and widely respected Chairman of South African Athletics. What facilities they do not already have, Johannesburg is prepared to build, but the altitude brings back memories

of the problems encountered in Mexico City over 25 years ago. In addition, NOCASA may be wary of allowing Johannesburg, the focal point for much of the current political turmoil, to use the Olympic campaign as a way of unifying the nation.

Durban is the outside runner in this race. The city has on its side lots of hotel accommodation and its King's Park Stadium, which hosted this year's African Athletics Championships, but it lacks a major

airport and has few indoor sports facilities. The other problem is that the African Athletics Championships were rife with technical flaws.

Ramsamy estimates that staging the Olympics would cost South Africa nearly \$7 billion. While Johannesburg and Durban plan to raid public coffers for much of their funding, Cape Town expects substantial support from the commercial sector, which will make it much more popular with the South African taxpayer.

Cape Town already has the support of a number of the country's top sportsmen and women, as well as a number of key national and international figures including Olympic medalist Elana Meyer; Steve Tshwete, the ANC's sports supremo; and former US ambassador to South Africa, Andrew Young, who played a major part in getting the 1996 Games for Atlanta, US.

The city's bid is co-chaired by Ngconde Balfour, a former President of South Africa's National Sports Congress. He worked on Australian bids for the Commonwealth and Olympic Games in the 1980s.

He is confident Sydney's recent success will improve Cape Town's chances in the IOC vote in 1997.

— Gemini News About the Author: Phil Minshall is a British freelance sports journalist and broadcaster with a special interest in African sport.

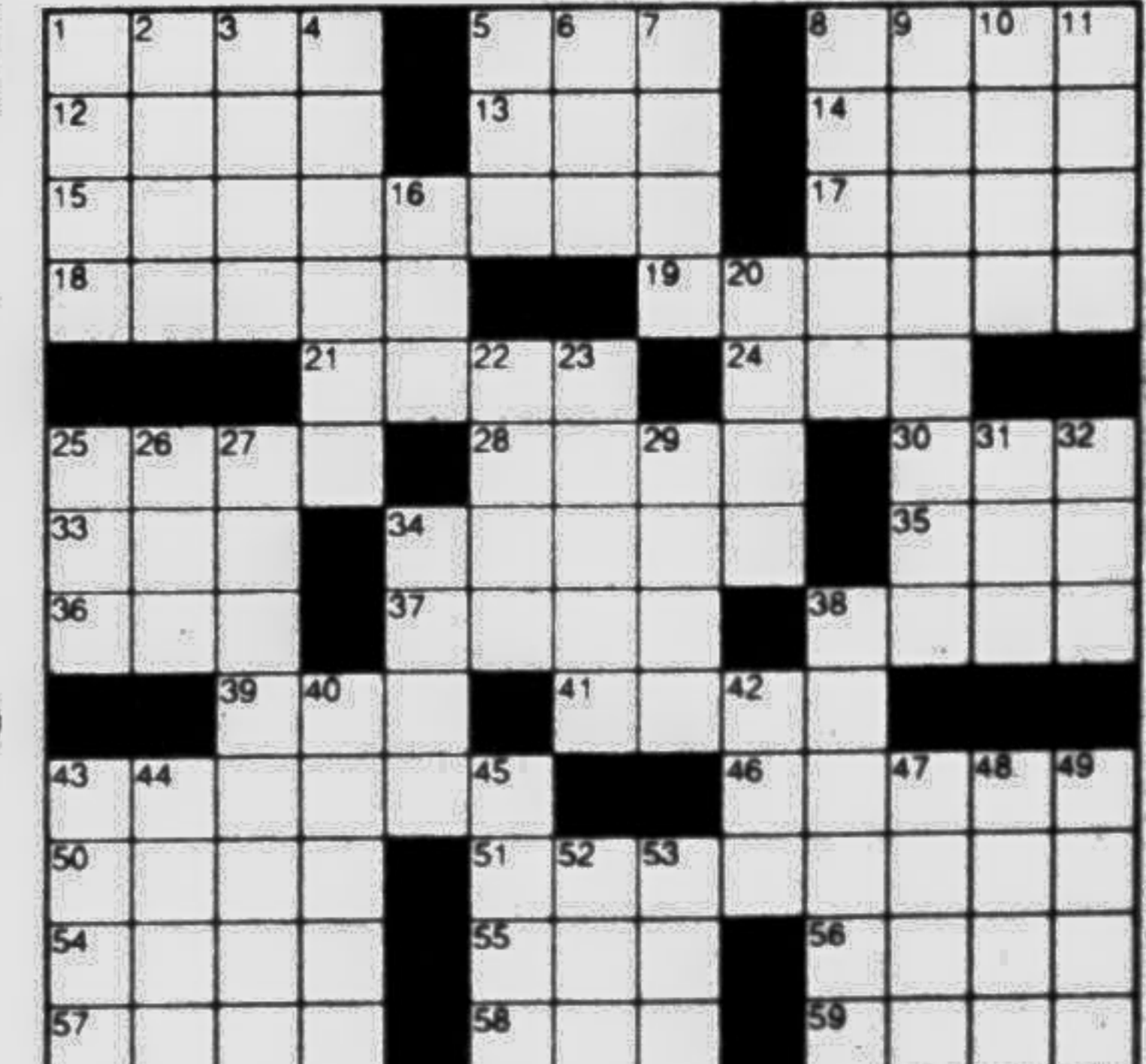


SAM RAMSAMY

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 1 Lane with many curves? 5 Roast-pig side dish 8 "Major Barbara" writer 12 Appear ominously 13 Personal 14 Set of regulations 15 A means of escape 17 Cause of Ninja Turtles' mutation 18 Stroll 19 Used a ray gun 21 Farm team 24 WKRP newsman 25 Ape 28 Hollywood crossover 30 Center X 33 Berlin's "What'll —?" 34 "Wonderful, wonderful cat" 35 Id counter-part 36 Bother 37 Bellicose deity

38 Saddam's domain 39 Buddy 41 Ink 43 Fabric named for an Indian city 46 Boston Tea Party VIP 50 Hum-dinger 51 Shut in 54 Old Peruvian 55 "The — Daba Honey-moon" 56 Perry's creator 57 Of a dark red color 58 "Ferdinand" cartoonist 59 Turned blue? 60 Glenn, in "Fatal Attraction" 22 Eternally growth 3 Knuckle-head 4 Take on 5 Nanki- (The Mikado's son) 6 Pussycat's co-passenger 7 Don Juan's mom 8 Range 9 Ewing or Erving 10 Wood shaping tool 11 Intruder in solution time: 21 mins.



CRYPTOQUIP ARF ZQE WFPQZL DBQ KQJJO JGRIUDAF IQD DBQ GBPUJ WMII EBQFQ DBQO KMO Yesterday's Cryptoquip: OUR DAD, A WELL-KNOWN ORCHESTRA CONDUCTOR, KNOWS THE SCORE. Today's Cryptoquip clue: F equals R The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.